Sustainability Success Story

National Mall and Memorial Parks, Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Renovation

Replacement of the reflecting pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II Memorial is a green parks project from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The approximately \$33 million project, to be finished early summer 2012, replaced the 2,000-foot-long, 160-foot-wide pool as well as walking paths and interpretive stops around the pool.

The old pool – completed in 1924 and demolished in 2009 – held about 7 million gallons of water, much of which evaporated or continually leaked out. This ongoing loss of water meant regular purchase of potable water from the District of Columbia. On occasion, due to lack of circulation, the pool would emit a foul smell in August, and at times become unhealthy for waterfowl.

The new pool will be filled with re-circulated water, which will be pumped from the Tidal Basin, filtered, and then pumped into the pool. When cleaning of the pool is required, the water will be returned to the Tidal Basin. In



addition to putting an end to buying potable water to fill the pool, and enhanced aesthetics worthy of the National Mall, this project will result in a new pool will result in improved public health and safety.

Sustainable Outcomes and Other Benefits: Water Conservation, Cost Savings, Habitat Improvement.